

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 699**

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Expands definition of "public safety officer" to include certain regulatory specialists as persons who may be eligible for benefit awards from Public Safety Memorial Fund.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

The measure expands eligible persons who can receive benefit awards from the Public Safety Memorial Fund (PSMF) to include regulatory specialists. In addition, the measure defines regulatory specialists as full-time employees of the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission who are authorized to act as an agent of the Commission in conducting inspections or investigations, making arrests and seizures, aiding in prosecutions for offenses, issuing citations for violations, enforcing commission rules and any other statutes the commission considers related to regulating liquor, marijuana, or marijuana-derived products. The measure is effective January 1, 2024.

PSMF is supported with Criminal Fine Account monies and provides financial assistance to public safety officers who are permanently and totally disabled as a result of a line of duty injury. The fund also provides assistance to family members of public safety officers who are killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. The statutory benefit for a qualifying death or disability is a lump sum payment of \$25,000. Additionally, the six-member PSMF Board may award discretionary benefits to assist with mortgage payments, health or dental insurance coverage payments, or higher education scholarships.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. The number of eligible claims that may be qualified under the measure is unknown. Under current law, the Board is required to determine if sufficient funds will be available during the biennium to pay all approved and anticipated claims, and if not, the Board may prioritize claims or prorate amounts awarded based upon the available funds therefore, it is incumbent upon the Board to be cognizant of applications and expenditures. As of February 2023, there has been approximately \$277,000 distributed to qualified individuals in the 2021-23 biennium, and for the 2023-25 biennium the current service level for the PSMF is \$303,769.

There is no fiscal impact for the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission.